Amendments to the Abstract:

ABSTRACT

Please replace the abstract that appears on page 12 of the specification with the following revised abstract which is submitted on a separate sheet.

Abstract

~~The invention relates to a~~ A method and apparatus for determining a measuring point in time (t_M), at which a measured value is to be produced by a field device [[(1)]] of process automation technology, wherein the field device [[(1)]] communicates its measured values at certain communication points in time (t_K) over a field bus following a query from a central control unit with regard to the measured values of the field device. The ~~invention provides that the following~~ communication point in time (t_f) is approximated from at least two communication points in time (t_K, t'_K) and ~~that~~ the measuring point in time (t_M) is determined on the basis of the approximated communication point in time (t_f). ~~Additionally, the invention relates to a corresponding apparatus.~~

~~(Fig. 2)~~